

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brandon Stallman and David Crompton on 12/15/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1

A device for applying torque to a wire, comprising:
a body portion having an open ended channel with opposed side surfaces and a bottom surface that extend along an entire length of the body portion for allowing the wire to be side-loaded into the channel;

a tongue that is separate from the body portion and fixedly suspended in the channel between the opposing side surfaces, the tongue including a first engagement surface positioned above the bottom surface of the channel and facing downwardly into the channel toward the bottom surface;

a slider that is longitudinally slideable within the open ended channel of the body portion, the slider having a second engagement surface disposed adjacent the wire when the wire is side-loaded in the channel; and

wherein longitudinal movement of the slider within the open ended channel of the body portion towards the tongue compresses the wire between the first, downwardly facing

engagement surface of the fixed tongue and the second engagement surface of the slider so that rotation of the body portion applies torque to the wire.

Claim 10

A wire torquing device, comprising:

a body having a length;

an open ended channel having a bottom surface, the open ended channel extending along the entire length of the body into which a wire can be laterally fitted;

a projection that is separate from the body, projects into the open ended channel, and is fixedly suspended above the bottom surface;

a slider that remains in the open ended channel as the wire is laterally fitted along the length of the open ended channel and is movable longitudinally therein, the slider including an open ended channel configured for laterally receiving the wire and being substantially aligned with the open ended channel of the body, the open ended channel of the slider defining an engagement surface; and

wherein the open ended channel of the slider laterally receives a portion of the wire when laterally fitted in the open ended channel of the body, and wherein the engagement surface of the slider secures the portion of the wire against the fixed projection as the slider is moved longitudinally toward the projection in the open ended channel of the body.

Claim 20

A wire torquing device comprising:

a body having an open U-shaped channel extending along an entire length thereof in which a wire can be fitted, wherein the open U-shaped channel includes a pair of opposing side walls and a bottom surface;

a wedge fixedly positioned on one of the side walls of the U-shaped channel and having an angled engagement surface projecting laterally inwardly into the U-shaped channel;

a slider that is movable longitudinally within the channel; and

~~wherein the open U-shaped channel includes a pair of side walls, a bottom surface and a wedge having an angled engagement surface fixedly positioned on one of the side walls of the U-shaped channel; and wherein the slider includes [[an]] a side engagement surface facing the angled engagement surface of the wedge; the slider being longitudinally movable towards the fixed wedge to pinch the wire between the side engagement surface of the slider and the angled engagement surface of against the wedge.~~

Also, please cancel **Claim 25**.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HELEN NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-8340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9 am - 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on 571-272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/H. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736